



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

SPECIFICATIONS FOR Patio Covers

CITY OF SAN DIEGO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
1222 FIRST AVENUE, MS 301, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
Call (619) 446-5300 for appointments and (619) 446-5000 for information.

INFORMATION
BULLETIN
206
November 2002

This Information Bulletin describes the minimum requirements for obtaining patio cover permits for residential buildings using the City of San Diego standard plan, ICBO approved plans, or other conventionally framed plans. For clarification of the permit process, visit the Development Review Center, third floor, 1222 First Avenue, or telephone (619) 446-5000.

I. DEFINITION

A. Patio covers are one-story structures not more than 12 feet above grade and used only for recreational, outdoor living purposes and not as carports, garages, storage rooms or habitable rooms.

B. Patio covers may be attached or detached and are permitted only as accessory to one- or two-family dwellings or lodging houses or to individual dwelling units in multiple dwelling-unit buildings.

C. Patio covers must be open on one or more sides.

1. Enclosure walls must have a clear height of not less than 6'-8" measured from the floor to the soffit of the supporting members.
2. Enclosure walls may have any configuration, provided at least 65 percent of the total wall area of the longer wall and one additional wall is open. Note that sliding glass doors may not be included in the required open area. The openings must not be covered with any permanent materials which obstruct the free passage of light and air except insect screening having mesh not finer than 1/16" by 1/16", or readily removable transparent or translucent plastic of not more than 1/8" (0.125 inch) maximum thickness.

D. For additional information on opening and design requirements for patio covers, see Building Newsletter 31-1.

II. WHEN IS A PERMIT REQUIRED?

Patio cover structures are exempted from a building permit in single family residential zones provided they do not exceed 300 square feet of projected roof area; do not encroach into any required yards or established setbacks; and the property is not located in the Coastal Zone or on any site regulated by a Planned Residential Development (PRD) permit or a Planned Infill Residential Development (PIRD) permit. Telephone (619) 446-5000 to verify if the proposed location is in one of these areas. A building

Documents referenced in this Information Bulletin

- Permit Application, DS-3032
- Information Bulletin 112, "Minimum Standards for Construction Specifications"
- Information Bulletin 117, "Regulations Covering Permit Expiration and Extension"
- Building Newsletter 23-4
- Building Newsletter 31-1

permit is required for any new patio cover not meeting this exemption, or repair or enclosure of an existing patio cover. A final inspection must be passed before the work is considered completed by the City of San Diego.

III. YOUR OPTIONS FOR SERVICE

Patio cover permits may be obtained "over-the-counter" when using the City of San Diego standard plan, ICBO approved plans or plans using conventional wood framing. Appointments for plan review are recommended. Telephone (619) 446-5300 to schedule an appointment. Plans not meeting the criteria for over-the-counter plan check must be submitted for plan review.

IV. DRAWINGS TO PROVIDE/FORMS TO COMPLETE

Plans must be drawn to scale and must be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature, and extent of the work proposed. Be sure to clearly label all existing and proposed construction.

Plans must show, in detail, that the proposed work will conform to the provisions of the Uniform Building Code, Zoning Ordinances, and all other relevant laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations. Zoning information is available at the Development Review Center, 1222 First Avenue, 3rd Floor or call (619) 446-5000.

Three sets of plans are required and must include:

☐ A. Plot Plan

See Figure 5 for requirements.

☐ B. Foundation and Framing Plans

Provide one of the following:

1. One copy of the City of San Diego standard plan

This information is available in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.
To request this bulletin in alternative format, call (619) 446-5446 or (800) 735-2929 (TT).
Be sure to see us on the World Wide Web at www.ci.san-diego.ca.us/development-services

(specifications in this information bulletin) with the proposed footing sizes, rafter sizes, and beam sizes highlighted, or,

2. One copy of an International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO)-approved plan available from your material supplier, or,
3. Three copies of any other plan. These plans should include a roof framing plan, foundation plan, elevations, cross-sections, and connection details. See Figures 1 to 4.

❑ C. Floor Plan

For patio covers within 6'-0" of a dwelling, include a floor plan and show the following information:

1. Use and dimensions of all rooms adjacent to the patio cover.
2. Size and type of all windows and doors from those rooms.

❑ D. Permit Application

All projects must be submitted with a Permit Application. Instructions can be found on the reverse side of the application. If you intend to obtain your permit on the same day as plan review, the application must be fully completed. Note: there are no exceptions to the Workers' Compensation Insurance requirements. If the property owner is doing the construction work or is hiring a number of different contractors, a separate Owner-Builder Verification form must be signed by the owner before the permit can be issued.

V. ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

A. If patio cover posts are to be located less than 3'-0" from the property line (zoning regulations permitting), the patio cover must have a one hour fire resistive wall extending to the underside of the roof sheathing on the property line side to provide fire protection. No openings are permitted in this wall and a parapet may be required. See Sections 503 and 704 of the California Building Code.

B. No fire protection is required for the common wall between the dwelling unit and patio cover as they fall under the same occupancy classification.

C. When openings required for light and/or ventilation within the dwelling unit itself open into a patio structure, the minimum ceiling height of the patio structure is 7'-0" measured from the floor surface to the underside of the rafters. When no required openings exist in the common wall, the minimum required height for the patio cover is 6'-8". See California Building Code Section 1203.1, Exceptions.

D. All electrical wiring and equipment must comply with regulations for exterior installation.

VI. CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

Following are the minimum construction specifications for patio covers.

A. The concrete mix for footings must meet a compressive strength of $f'_c = 2,000$ psi minimum or the following proportions by volume:

- 1 part Portland cement
- 2 1/2 parts sand
- 3 1/2 parts 3/4-inch maximum-size gravel
- 7 gallons of water maximum per sack of cement

B. Lumber must be Douglas fir-larch No. 2 or better. All lumber must be grade-marked. Joists, girders, and posts may be required to be protected against decay and termites. See Building Newsletter 23-4 and Section 2306 of the California Building Code for details. Single copies are available from reception on the fourth floor of the Development Review Center. All posts must be a minimum of 4x4.

C. The post anchorage and bracing details shown on the following sheets have been approved by the City of San Diego for unenclosed patio covers.

1. Posts must be anchored at the lower end and must be braced at the upper end using any of the details shown in Figure 2. Decorative-type bracing may be substituted if the same resistance to lateral loading is provided.

2. Post anchorage to slabs may be accomplished with a standard approved post base installed per manufacturer's instructions. The footing must be adequate for the load applied. See Section VIII below and Table A. When the load on supporting post does not exceed 750 pounds per posts, a minimum 3 1/2-inch-thick concrete slab-on-grade may be substituted for the pad footings shown on the typical framing details.

3. Patio covers with roofing and/or enclosed walls must be designed in accordance with the requirements of Section 3117 of the California Building Code.

D. When it is desired to connect and support one side of the patio structure by attaching it directly to the house, the rafter spacing and beam sizes may be as shown in Tables B and C. However, the main beam may be replaced on the side attached to the dwelling unit with a ledger the same size as the rafters and fastened to the studs with 1/2" x 5" lag screws spaced at 32" maximum on center for up to a 10'-0" rafter span. Lag screws may be spaced at 16" maximum on center when the rafter span does not exceed 20'-0". Attaching the rafters to existing dwelling unit rafters is not recommended. If a ledger beam is not used, patio cover rafters should be notched and placed directly on the double top plate of the dwelling unit.

See Information Bulletin 112, "Minimum Standards for Construction Specifications," for further information on notching.

E. Specify roof covering (shingles, shakes, etc.) when submitting plans. If nominal one-half-inch-thick roof sheathing is used, the roof may have rafters spaced not more than 24" on center. If plastic roof coverings are used, installation must be according to manufacturer's recommendations and the corrugations must be placed perpendicular to and across the supports. Roof systems shall be sloped 1/4 inch in 12 inches for drainage.

VII. INSPECTIONS

An Inspection Record Card is issued at the time the permit is obtained. The inspector signs this card as the construction is inspected and approved. The approved plans, the Inspection Record Card, and the permit are important records and should be retained.

A combination permit is active for 180 days. Each inspection scheduled and passed extends the permit 180 days. Permits approaching expiration can be extended under special circumstances. Refer to Information Bulletin 117, "Regulation Covering Permit Expiration and Extension," for more information.

Inspections are required at the following times:

A. When footing have been excavated but before concrete is placed,

B. When ledger beams are attached to an existing structure, and

C. When work is complete.

Note that the project is not legally complete until there is an approved final inspection. Call (858) 581-7111 to schedule inspections.

VIII. TABLES

Tables A, B, and C make the following assumptions:

Roof live load is 10 psf.

Roof dead load is 7 psf.

All lumber is to be Douglas fir-larch No. 2 or better:

$F_b = 825$ psi

$F_v = 90$ psi

$E = 1,200,000$ psi

Repetitive member use:

All posts are to be 4x4 minimum.

Soil bearing pressure is 1,000 psf minimum.

If the above information differs, values in the tables must be adjusted.

Table A/Minimum Square Footing Sizes (Inches)*

Post Spacing (Feet)	Rafter Span (Feet)							
	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
4	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
6	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	14
8	12	12	12	12	12	14	14	14
10	12	12	12	14	14	14	16	16
12	12	12	14	14	16	16	18	18
14	12	12	14	16	16	18	18	20
16	12	14	14	16	18	18	20	20
18	12	14	16	18	18	20	20	22
20	14	14	16	18	20	20	22	24

*See dimension "A" on "Figure 2, Case 4."

Table B/Minimum Rafter Sizes (Inches)

Rafter Span (feet)	Rafter Spacing Center-to-Center (Inches)			
	12	16	24	32
	(5/16" plywood sheathing)	(3/8" plywood sheathing)	(1/2" plywood sheathing)	(5/8" plywood sheathing)
6	2x4	2x4	2x4	2x4
7	2x4	2x4	2x4	2x4
8	2x4	2x4	2x6	2x6
9	2x4	2x6	2x6	2x6
10	2x6	2x6	2x6	2x6
11	2x6	2x6	2x6	2x6
12	2x6	2x6	2x6	2x8
13	2x6	2x6	2x8	2x8
14	2x6	2x6	2x8	2x8
15	2x6	2x8	2x8	2x10
16	2x8	2x8	2x8	2x10
17	2x8	2x8	2x10	2x10
18	2x8	2x8	2x10	2x10
19	2x8	2x10	2x10	2x12
20	2x8	2x10	2x10	2x12

Table C/Minimum Beam Sizes (Inches)

Post Spacing (Feet)	Rafter Span (In Feet)								
	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4
6	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x4	4x6
8	4x4	4x4	4x6	4x6	4x6	4x6	4x6	4x6	4x6
10	4x4	4x6	4x6	4x6	4x6	4x6	4x8	4x8	4x8
12	4x6	4x6	4x6	4x8	4x8	4x8	4x8	4x8	4x10
						6x8	6x8	6x8	6x8
14	4x6	4x8	4x8	4x8	4x8	4x10	4x10	4x10	4x10
				6x8	6x8	6x8	6x10	6x10	6x10
16	4x8	4x8	4x8	4x10	4x10	4x10	4x12	4x12	4x14
		6x8	6x8	6x8	6x8	6x10	6x10	6x10	6x10
18	4x8	4x8	4x10	4x10	4x10	4x12	4x12	4x14	4x14
		6x8	6x8	6x8	6x10	6x10	6x10	6x12	6x12
20	4x8	4x10	4x10	4x12	4x12	4x14	4x14		
	6x8	6x8	6x10	6x10	6x10	6x12	6x12	6x12	6x14

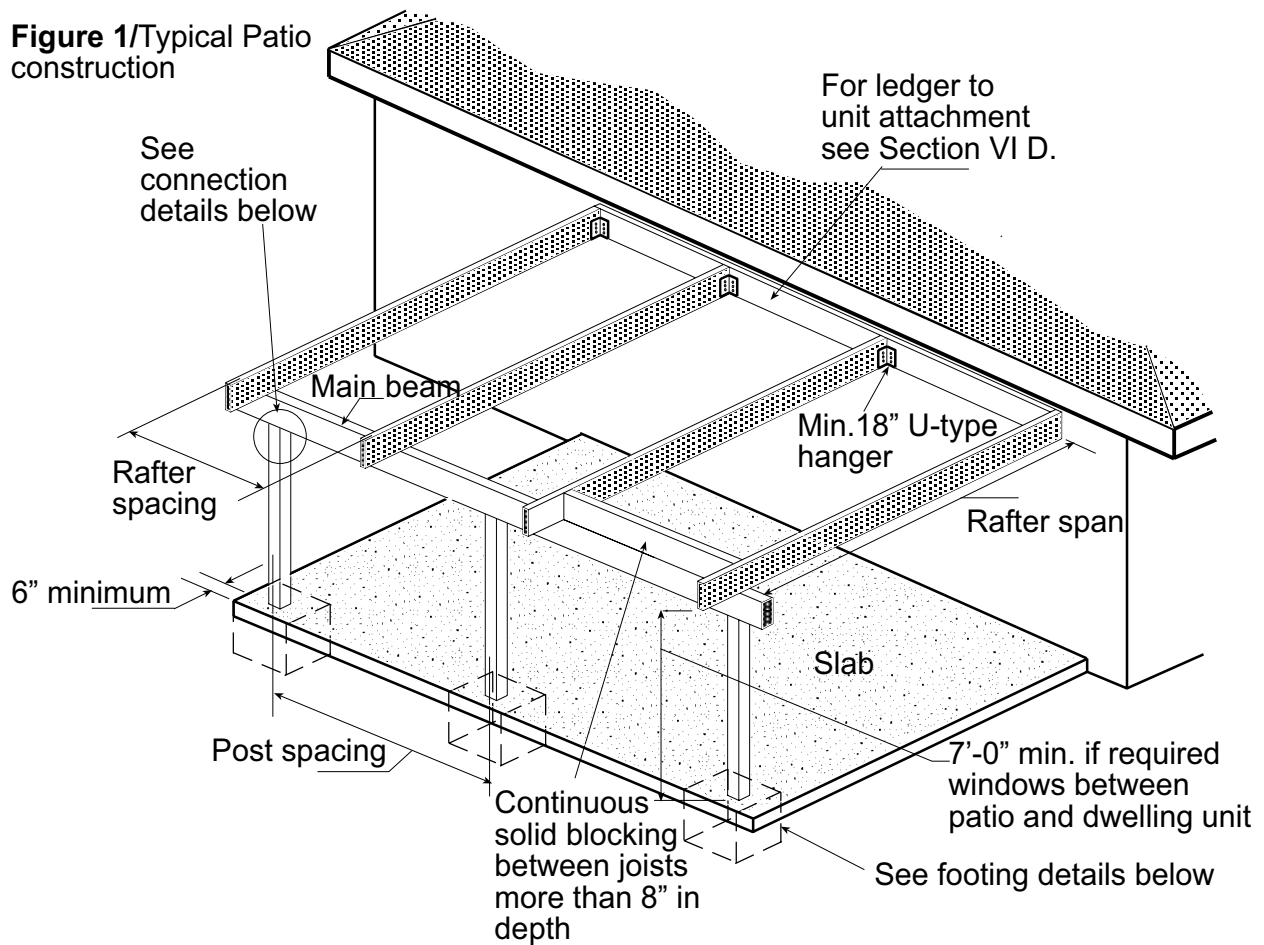
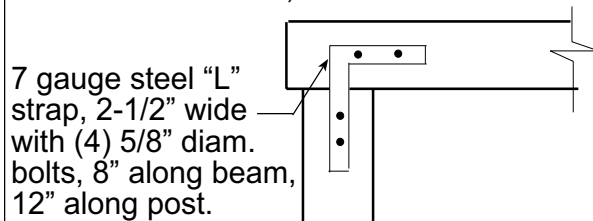
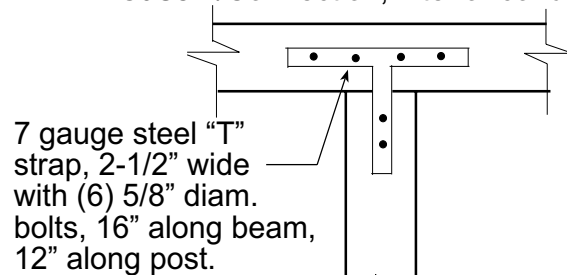
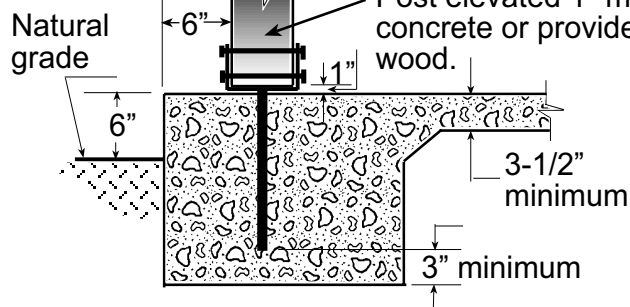
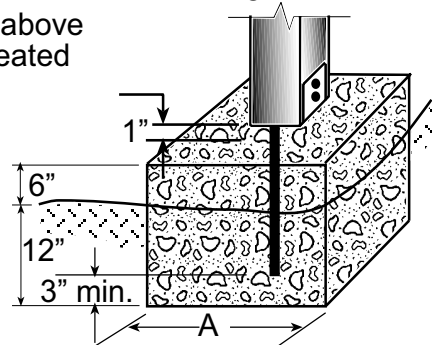
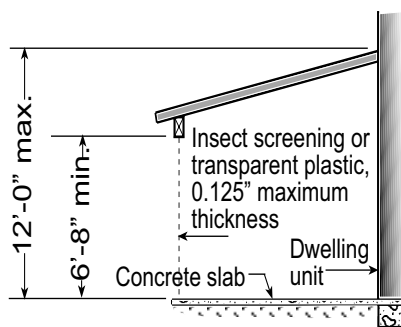
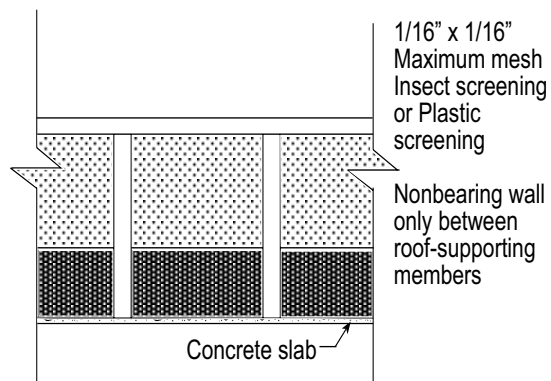
Figure 1/Typical Patio construction**Figure 2/Connection, anchor and footing details****Case 1/Connection, end condition****Case 2/Connection, interior condition****Case 3/Anchor and footing detail slab****Case 4/Anchor and footing detail, isolated pier**

Figure 3/Enclosed Patio Section**Figure 4/Enclosed Patio Interior elevation****Figure 5/Sample Patio Plot Plan**

Contact the Development Services Center at 446-5000 for Yard Setback and other requirements before drawing Plot Plan

Three copies of Plot Plan are required for a permit.

You must include information on each of the following items on the Plot Plan:

1. Name of Owner
2. Address and Assessor's Parcel Number where the patio is to be built.
3. Legal description of Property.
4. North arrow and scale. Suggested scale: 1 inch equals 20 feet.
5. Boundaries and dimensions of property.*
6. Names of bordering streets.*
7. Width of alley(s), if any.*
8. Location and width of easements. Private easements should be shown on the property's deed.*
9. Location and dimensions of existing buildings structures, retaining walls, paved parking and driveways. Include distance from curb to property line.
10. Location and dimensions of proposed patio. include distances to property lines.
11. Location and spacing of all posts supporting patio.
12. Existing survey hubs, pipes and similar permanently installed property line identification.

*This information is available from Maps and Records, (619)446-5300.

